THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) A National Commission has been constituted *vide* Resolution No. 1-11/2004 MC (D) dated 29th October, 2004. The terms of reference of the Commission require it to suggest criteria for identification of socially and educationally backward sections amongst the religious and linguistic minorities.

Exchange of vacancies between SC/ST of Orissa

1874. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of exchange of vacancies between Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes that existed earlier depending on the respective Community's preponderance has since been withdrawn by the State Government of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes Sir. The exchange of vacancies between Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in respect of Class-III and Class-IV posts and services has been withdrawn by Government of Orissa *vide* Orissa Act II of 1992, after introduction of post based reservation.

(b) Government of Orissa have issued a circular in this regard *vide* their letter No. 21429 dated 03-04-2003.

Formulation of National Tribal Policy

1875. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority has formulated a National Tribal Policy;

(b) if so, the details and the status thereof;

(c) whether the above policy provides for better educational/health facilities and poverty eradication schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the National Assembly of Tribal and Indigenous People rejected the National draft policy in September, 2004; and

(f) if so, the action taken to redraft it?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has prepared a Draft National Policy for the tribal communities.

(b) to (d) The draft National policy suggests coordinated and concerted efforts for accelerating socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes maintaining their distinct culture, envisages socio-economic empowerment and documentation of rich traditional practices and wisdom enshrined in the tribal culture. The draft policy addresses the problems of poverty, health, sanitation, environmental hygiene, nutrition and displacement in tribal communities by appropriate measures and provides a strong and effective relief and rehabilitation system to ameliorate the miseries of the tribal people. Also the draft policy considers formal education as the key to all-round human development and attempts to address the problem of education among the ST populations with a view to suggest a number of remedial measures to ensure better education among the tribals.

The draft policy has been placed on the Ministry's website *www.tribal.nic.in* for eliciting suggestions and views of People's representatives, NGOs and Experts etc. prior to finalizing the tribal policy, the Ministry is organizing four zonal seminars and one national seminar at different places to elicit their views/comments. Once such regional seminar has been organized at Shimla on 18-19 Nov., 2004.

(e) and (f) The National Assembly of Tribal and Indigenous People has suggested some modification in the Draft National Policy. An additional Draft National Policy paper for tribal communities has been prepared, and circulated.

National Commission for ST

1876. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK:
SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes had been set up;